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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

COUNTRY	Bulgaria	REPORT	[REDACTED]	25X1
SUBJECT	"Skala" Regiment in Mamarchevo, Elkhovo Okoliya	DATE DISTR.	29 October 1953	
DATE OF INFO.	[REDACTED]	NO. OF PAGES	2	
PLACE ACQUIRED	[REDACTED]	REQUIREMENT NO.	RD	
		REFERENCES		25X1

This is UNEVALUATED Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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1. An unidentified Rifle Regiment called "Skala," [REDACTED] with headquarters near Mamarchevo (N 42-07, E 26-47), uses troops specially trained by other regiments to guard border fortifications. These troops are supposed to be able to hold back an enemy invasion for 24 hours, the estimated time necessary to bring up supporting forces. 25X1
2. Of the 350 recruits who joined the 12 Rifle Regiment in Elkhovo on 4 May 1952, about 150, mostly from Plovdiv and Khaskovo Okolias, were separated from the others in two weeks time and organized into separate "Skala" heavy machine gun and antitank units which were included in the organization of 12 Rifle Regiment, e.g., the 2 Heavy Machine Gun Company had both a regular heavy machine gun platoon and a "Skala" Heavy Machine Gun platoon. Those chosen included both DSNM (Dimitrovski S'uyuz na Narodnata Mladezh; Dimitrov's Union of the People's Youth) and non-DSNM members.
3. During the three months recruit training period, the "Skalisti," as they are called, were equipped with the following weapons:
 - a. Light machine guns;
 - b. German-made Mannlicher rifles; and
 - c. Schwarzlose heavy machine guns.

In March 1953, the German rifles of the "Skalisti" still with the 12 Rifle Regiment were exchanged for Soviet-made carbines. The "Skalisti" were not only

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trained separately but used different ammunition, which was transported by cart from the "Skala" Regiment headquarters in Mamarchevo.

4. After the recruit training, groups of three or four "Skalisti" at a time were sent from the 12 Rifle Regiment to the "Skala" Regiment in Mamarchevo, where they were assigned to guard, on a year-round basis, the heavy machine gun and anti-tank gun posts and bunkers near the villages of Lesovo (N 41-59, E 26-34), Malko Kirilovo (N 42-02, E 26-37) and Razdel (N 42-04, E 26-38).

5. [redacted] meals were delivered by cart to "Skalisti" guarding fortifications.

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